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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/924,372	08/08/2001	- Thomas I. Rogan	67,010-005; H2602-FN	2154

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EXAMINER

BAYAT, BRADLEY B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3621	

3621

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/924,372	Applicant(s) ROGAN ET AL.	
Examiner Bradley Bayat	Art Unit 3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

In the amendment filed on 19 July 2004, applicant has added new claims 19-23 and argued against claims 1-18. Claims 1-23 are pending.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on July 19, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant has argued that the Savino reference (U.S. Patent 6,015,167) "does not disclose or inherently include updating status information as recited in claim 1, tracking module as recited in claim 7 or a sixth instruction module as recited in claim 18 (applicant's response page 7)."

The applicant further contends that purchasing and shipping information is only entered by the customer and that once the single identifying barcode is generated, input of information linked to the barcode stops, resulting in no updating of information or tracking of packages (Id.). The applicant further states, "there is nothing in the Savino reference that describes or suggests automatically facilitating payments" from a customer to a supplier responsive to determining that a selected portion of the transaction is complete (Id.). The examiner respectfully disagrees.

As applicant is aware, since the cited reference and the instant application are commonly owned, both Savino and the instant application utilize one barcode for various pieces of data relating to the customer, supplier or seller, shipping, etc... The applicant is directed to column 4, lines 14-35, 50-55 and column 5, lines 4-7. Savino discloses a payment module upon the customer's request to buy goods to a supplier and wherein such authorization allows the customer to supply shipping information. Savino goes on to describe that a barcode may be

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utilized by a supplier, customer to access a database associated with a plurality of predetermined purchase and shipping information. Moreover, Savino further anticipates various uses of the single barcode advantage and describes accessing relevant purchase or shipping information from a supplier database via a communications network (column5, lines 1-6). Savino further disclose a shipping and tracking system as a sixth advantage to the invention, wherein “a customer or supplier can easily access shipping and receiving status information pertaining to purchase orders and parts shipped (column 5, lines 18-21).”

The examiner will not address the column and line numbers of the additional dependent claims cited by the applicant since they have been cited in the response above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Savino et al. (hereinafter Savino), U.S. Patent 6,015,167.

As per the following claims, Savino discloses:

1. A method of electronically handling transactions, comprising the steps of: establishing a transaction identifier that is used during all stages of an order-to-cash trading cycle; electronically storing the transaction identifier such that the identifier is remotely accessible by a

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plurality of users; linking supplier information with the transaction identifier; linking purchaser information with the transaction identifier; updating status information indicating the status of the transaction during a corresponding phase of the transaction; and linking the status information to the transaction identifier (column 2, lines 7-20, figures 1, 4, 5 and associated text).

2. The method of claim 1, including automatically providing at least selected portions of the information linked to the transaction identifier to a user (column 2, lines 21-35).

3. The method of claim 1, including providing at least selected portions of the information linked to the transaction identifier to a user responsive to the user accessing the transaction identifier (column 2, lines 21-35; figure 3 and associated text).

4. The method of claim 1, including automatically facilitating payment from a customer to a supplier responsive to determining that a selected portion of the transaction is complete (column 4, lines 44-67).

5. The method of claim 4, including automatically determining payment schedule terms based upon selected criteria using the determined completion of the selected portion of the transaction (column 3, line 62 – column 4, line 35).

6. The method of claim 1, including automatically updating the status information responsive to remotely received information regarding stages of the transaction (column 5, lines 17-21).

7. A system for electronically processing transactions, comprising: a transaction identifier that identifies a transaction; and a tracking module that includes status information regarding the transaction and updates the status information during stages of the transaction, the tracking module providing access to the status information to a plurality of users such that a user of the system can automatically access the status information by using the transaction identifier (column 2, lines 7-20).

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the transaction identifier comprises a single bar code representing a number (figure 3 and associated text).

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the transaction identifier includes information identifying a customer, a purchase order number, shipment release number and packing slip number (column 4, lines 1-35).

10. The system of claim 7, including a customer module that includes information regarding at least one customer, the customer module facilitating the tracking module obtaining information regarding the customer and the status of the transaction where the status relates to the customer, the customer module linking the customer information with the transaction identifier (figure 1 and associated text).

11. The system of claim 10, including a supplier module that includes information regarding at

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least one supplier, the supplier module facilitating the tracking module obtaining information regarding the supplier and the status of the transaction where the status relates to the supplier, the supplier module linking the supplier information with the transaction identifier (figure 1 and associated text).

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the tracking, customer and supplier modules all each communicate with the other modules (figure 4 and 5 and associated text).

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the tracking, customer and supplier modules are each located remotely from the other modules (figures 1 and 2 and associated text).

14. The system of claim 7, wherein the tracking module communicates with a plurality of remotely located input devices and where the input devices provide status information regarding the transaction (figure 2 and associated text).

15. The system of claim 14, wherein at least one of the input devices is a shipper input device that a shipper uses to enter status information regarding the shipment and delivery portions of the transaction (column 3, lines 1-25).

16. The system of claim 7, including a billing module that communicates with the tracking module and wherein the billing module automatically facilitates fund transfers between a customer account and a supplier account responsive to receiving shipment confirmation

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information from the tracking module (column 3, line 62 – column 4, line 50).

17. The system of claim 7, wherein the tracking module comprises software (column 3, lines 26-47).

18. A computer readable medium containing a plurality of computer executable instructions for electronically processing transactions, comprising: a first instruction module establishing a transaction identifier that is used during all stages of a transaction; a second instruction module electronically storing the transaction identifier such that the identifier is remotely accessible by a plurality of users; a third instruction module linking supplier information with the transaction identifier; a fourth instruction module linking purchaser information with the transaction identifier; a fifth instruction module updating status information indicating the status of the transaction during a corresponding phase of the transaction; a sixth instruction module linking the status information to the transaction identifier; and a seventh instruction module automatically providing at least selected portions of the information linked to the transaction identifier responsive to a user accessing the transaction identifier (rejected as above method and system of the claimed invention).

Claims 19-23 have been addressed in the response to applicant's arguments and relevant section of the reference cited.

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Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

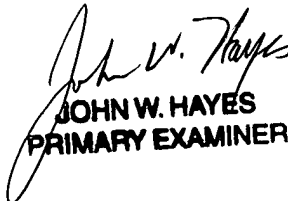
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley Bayat whose telephone number is 703-305-8548. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday during normal business hours.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bbb


JOHN W. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER